



## EDUCATION DAYS TRAINING MATERIAL

### Arrival at the Solar Village

On assigned Education Day, volunteers should check-in at the **volunteer desk**, located in the registration tent upon arrival and follow the “Solar Decathlon Participant Registration” signs. You must arrive at the volunteer desk promptly at 9:00 a.m. Allow for travel and walking time. Prior to arrival, you **must print out and complete** the emergency medical release, waiver of liability, and (if you are under the age of 18) parental consent forms. Make sure your registration form is complete and include a photograph.

To download forms click on this link:

[http://www.solardecathlon.gov/volunteer\\_forms.html](http://www.solardecathlon.gov/volunteer_forms.html)

To complete your official registration click on this link:

<http://www.solardecathlon.gov/volunteers.html>

At check-in, you will be provided with an Education Day Mentor shirt, badge and sunblock. **Since you are a Mentor and students and teachers have been advised that they are to look to you if any problems should arise you must wear this shirt during your assigned volunteer day.** You will also be given a pennant that indicates you are a mentor/team leader. You will receive a telephone reminder the day before your shift. Once volunteer check-in is complete proceed to the **lunch area** for specific assignments (no later than 9:30 a.m.).

### Team Leaders

Team Leaders will oversee assigned volunteer mentors. Team Leaders will provide his/her volunteers information on what schools/students he/she will meet and mentor for the day. This information will be included in a packet they will receive as well as information on the “Student Quiz” submission of answers and announcement of winners.

### Volunteers

Upon arrival at the Workshop Tent, volunteers will be assigned to a school/school group. Each school/school group will have a sign posted in the lunch area indicating the location the students will meet their mentors. The volunteer mentor will await his/her group at that posted sign along with student

guide books and pencils for students to use to fill in the quiz. Each volunteer will receive a specific schedule for his or her student group which will indicate times for touring the Solar Village, workshop session, lunch and departure.

The designated lunch area is the open space by the Education Center. There will be picnic tables and extra garbage bins in that area. Posted signs from bus drop-off will be removed, therefore there is no assigned seating, it is first-come, first served. Students may also visit the Education Center when they finish lunch and before their next scheduled session/tour.

### **Lunch**

Lunch will be provided in the **lunch area** for all volunteers after the departure of the last group of students (2:00 pm). Volunteers are free to purchase food from the Park Service Vendor during the time their students are having their lunch break if they cannot wait until the 2:00 time period.

For the most part students will bring their lunches but have the option of purchasing food from the Park Service Vendor. Tentative plans are for certain items to be provided students in addition to what they bring for lunch – water, fruit and possibly other “munchies.”

If students in a volunteer's group finish lunch and touring the Education Center early and have the Solar Village scheduled directly after lunch, the volunteer can gather his/her group to tour the village early. Any schedule item other than the Solar Village cannot be attended earlier than scheduled due to carefully calculated student capacity limits.

### **Student Departure**

Buses will arrive between 9:45 and 10:00 am and will depart by 2:00 pm. In some cases schools might dictate an earlier arrival and departure and as such will be accommodated within the context of volunteer availability.

Once students are on the bus please return to the volunteer desk to check-out. Once volunteer's responsibilities are complete, they are free to join in the 2:00 pm food function or depart the Solar Village.

**The below information was sent to the schools in advance of their trip to the Solar Decathlon. Please take a moment to review as part of your preparation as a Solar Education Day Mentor.**

### ***BEFORE YOU GO***

There are several things you can do before your field trip for Education Days that will enhance your Solar Decathlon experience. Please suggest to all the students, teachers and chaperones that will be attending on September 26 or 27 to visit [www.solardecathlon.gov](http://www.solardecathlon.gov). Ask them to review the background materials, take the virtual tours of the homes, and visit each team's website to understand the Decathlon's goals and objectives. Although you will have a considerable block of time to visit the homes, you will not be able to visit them all. This review will help your group prioritize its time.

Considerable effort was made this year to develop curriculum that would be useful to students and teachers. Visit [www.solardecathlon.gov/curriculum.html](http://www.solardecathlon.gov/curriculum.html) to review these materials. The curriculum should be helpful before you come to the Decathlon and a great tool to use after your visit.

**Enclosed is a map of the Solar Village. It would be very helpful if bus drivers, teachers, chaperones and students review this map before the visit so they can find the homes, restrooms, food service and first aid.**

### ***SCHEDULES***

This mailing includes your school's schedule for your day in the Solar Village. This includes the times for arrival and departure, tours of homes, workshop and lunch. ***Arrivals will begin at 9:45 a.m. Departures are scheduled to start at 1:45 p.m.*** Please contact us by September 22 if you need to adjust your arrival

or departure time. For the larger school groups, we have also divided the student body into more manageable numbers. If your school has already developed a plan to achieve this goal, please let us know.

### ***WHEN YOU ARRIVE***

Enclosed is a map of the Solar Village that includes the bus drop off and pick up area. **Upon arrival, it is imperative that you and your students depart buses as quickly as possible so that we avoid traffic problems. The arrival and departure area is also near a large picnic area and clearly marked on the map. This is the only drop off and pick up point allowed.** Staff will be on site to assist with student arrivals and departures.

When you leave the bus, you will see signs for each school. You and your students should proceed to your school's designated area. You will be met by our Mentors, who will have your schedule and a guide book for every student and begin your activities for that day. **Mentors will have bright red shirts and red pennants indicating they are Education Day Mentors. They will be your guides and the people to see if you have any problems. Please inform your students to look for the Mentors if they need assistance.**

### ***RAIN DAY***

Rain or shine, Education Days will go on. If it rains, lunch will be transferred to the Main Tent where the workshops will be held. Students also will be given umbrellas on arrival that they can share as they tour the village. Umbrellas will be collected on departure.

### ***LUNCH***

Each schedule includes a block of time for lunch. As we are accommodating so many students, your assigned lunch time might be a little earlier or later than normal. If weather permits, there is a designated picnic area with picnic tables and park benches. Part of the picnic area includes a new component for Solar Decathlon 2011, the Education Center. **When students have finished lunch, we encourage them to visit the Education Center before their schedule resumes.**

Students may bring a lunch (without a drink) or buy lunch from the Park Service food vendor. GSI is offering a special student rate for Education Days of \$6. The food service kiosk is located across from the Education Center and in the general picnic area. There will be a variety of sandwiches, including a vegan option, a bag of Sun Chips, bottled water and Fig Newton cookies. We will also provide water for students that bring their own lunch. **Please let us know what your lunch plans are by September 22 so we can tell the vendor how many customers to expect.** Please instruct students to dispose of waste in the containers in the lunch area.

### ***THE QUIZ – WIN AN IPOD OR DIGITAL CAMERA***

Every student will receive a guide book. There will be a quiz on the back of the book. All answers are on signage located in the public areas throughout the Solar Village. Each school that participates in the quiz will receive an iPod or digital camera. Students will turn in the quiz with their name to their teacher when they get on the bus for the return trip. The school will pick a winning student (suggest that you put all entries into a bin and the first quiz with the right answer wins). The answers to the quiz will be provided to participating schools. **Please let us know by September 20 if you wish to participate in the quiz so we can get a winning prize to your school in advance.**

While visiting the Solar Decathlon, all students will receive various giveaway items as a thank you for their time at the Solar Village.

### ***WORKSHOPS***

Every student is scheduled to attend a one-hour workshop in the Main Tent. These fun and educational workshops will cover solar energy, energy efficiency and energy conservation. Students will also have an opportunity to win prizes.

### ***FOR MORE INFORMATION***

If you have any questions, e-mail [solardecathlon@drintl.com](mailto:solardecathlon@drintl.com) or the Education Days Coordinator, Larry Woldt, at [lwoldt@drintl.com](mailto:lwoldt@drintl.com). You can also call Larry at 301-628-2091.

***WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT SOLAR DECATHLON 2011!***